

March 1959

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# ***LABOUR ORGANISER***



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# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

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## 'This Year, Next Year . . . ?'

It may be idle to speculate about the date of the General Election, but everybody is doing it. It was thought a possibility last October, and when it did not happen then, this coming May was tipped as the most likely date. As May draws nearer, next October is becoming the favourite, but there are some backing the spring of 1960.

Whatever date is thought most probable, it must be remembered that nobody actually knows — perhaps not even the Prime Minister. He is pretty sure to have had several dates marked for some time, and will decide on one of them when he feels confident that it will give him the greatest advantage.



October last was a possibility, and next May still is. If May comes and goes without an election, then autumn will be the critical period—a summer election is not impossible, but no Prime Minister would choose it except in desperation, and despite the Gallup polls, it is obvious that Macmillan hopes that something will turn up to ensure a Tory victory.

One thing is certain, and that is that there will be an election before June 1960, because the law demands it. Even if this Parliament runs its full legal life, there is not a great deal of effective time left for election preparations, bearing in mind holidays, the British weather, which imposes severe limits on outdoor political activities, and the

fact that politics is a spare time interest even for active party workers.

The Labour Party must be prepared to go into battle at any time. Its plans must not be tied to any one date, and if the election comes later, rather than sooner, than was expected the breathing spell must be turned to profit. There is not a constituency party, however advanced its preparations, which could not use all the time that may be left to strengthen its organisation still further and to win new support.



There are Labour supporters who still have to be found and recorded, and in every constituency there are hundreds of Labour men and women who will not vote unless they are registered for a postal vote.

The fall in the Government's support which has put Labour ahead in recent polls has been due to an increase of the 'Don't Knows', not an increase of those who intend to vote Labour. The coming weeks should be used for vigorous propaganda to win over as many of the 'Don't Knows' as possible. At present there are 25 out of every 100 electors who have not decided for whom they will vote: their decision may tip the scales.

The National Executive Committee launched the 'Into Action' campaign with an eye on May as the month for the election. The publication of *The Future Labour Offers You*, the public

*continued on page 59*

# Making Sure of Blackburn

**B**RRR! The people gathering in the campaign committee room looked forward with trepidation to their contemplated excursion into the snow and ice of an Arctic January night.

Our 'Into Action' campaign had been under way, on a limited scale, for some four weeks. One thousand copies of *The Future Labour Offers You* had been sold: some through the medium of party collectors, some through trade union offices, and some from a stall on the local market-place.

This latter method had been in the nature of an experiment. Our open-air market is one of the largest and busiest of its kind in Lancashire. Our campaign sub-committee had thought it worthwhile to hire a stall on a Saturday during the busy Christmas shopping period.

## Workers' Rota

A rota-system of workers was arranged, with three people to each shift of two hours. The net result of our venture was just short of 200 copies of the pamphlet sold, and plenty of good publicity.

The second phase of our campaign was about to start on that night in early January. Our Member of Parliament, Barbara Castle, whose stamina never ceases to amaze me, was there to lead the lads and lassies into the fray. This was the first night of many during the next three weeks that she would be doing this.

We were tackling two strong Labour wards each with an electorate of just over 5,000. Our objective was threefold: (1) to bring our card-index up-to-date; (2) to achieve maximum sales of the policy document; (3) to secure maximum postal vote coverage.

Each person was allocated the cards for a specific area along with a number of the pamphlets, a torch, and a

pencil. In each pamphlet had been inserted a special membership drive card, stamped with the local party address—these cards are obtainable from Head Office at the low price of 2s. 6d. per thousand.

They list a number of jobs which any interested person can do for the party. To date, we have had a number of them returned—mainly from young women who are prepared to do typing and writing.

An equally important side of our job was ascertaining where our supporters required postal votes. It is well known that the Tories beat us hand down on postal votes at the last three General Elections. Blackburn was no exception. In 1955, our majority was a mere 489—this on an 83 per cent poll. What could it have been if we had paid more attention to the postal vote?

It is estimated, on the basis of the postal vote canvass that has been carried out so far, that our potential support in this field can be increased by 800—1,000 votes—no mean reward for a little attention to detail.

## A Warning

A word of warning though! It's no earthly good leaving an R.P. behind and expecting some infirm person to complete it. Do the job properly. Help to fill in the form, ascertain the appropriate doctor's name and address, then take it to the doctor to complete—not forgetting, of course, to post it to the Registration Officer afterwards.

At the moment of writing we have sold well over 2,000 copies of the pamphlet. The emphasis is on the word SOLD. It is my opinion that each one of the booklets is worth a tanner of anybody's money and that anything worth buying is worth reading. If a person won't buy one it's odds on he wouldn't read it if you gave a copy to him.



Immediately the document was published we carried out a sales survey on the different categories of people, and the following results:

Members: only two householders out of three bought a copy.

Strong Labour areas: one householder in four bought a copy.

Marginal areas: one householder in seven bought a copy.

An approach which two other ward committees have adopted might commend itself. Instead of working during hours of darkness on week-days, they do the job in daylight at week-ends. They work as a team, with four or five people using a car as a mobile base. This has distinct advantages when you consider the weight and bulk of the docu-

ments. By having a number of people 'working' the same street a team spirit is created which stimulates competition among the salesmen, leading to higher sales. In two hours a team of four sold 104 copies.

Whatever method be adopted, it must be planned and executed by the maximum number of people available. Party workers must be made to realise the urgency and importance of the task, and an example must be set by every responsible person, Member of Parliament, prospective Parliamentary candidate, local councillor, or ward official. During the next few months every interest and activity should be subordinated to the work of the 'Into Action' Campaign.

**ROY MARTIN**

## INTO ACTION

# Learn the Selling Technique

WE started the campaign in our ward party in November, beginning with our own members. I had 38 on my collector's book, and tried to get each member to take two copies of the new booklet, one for ourselves, and one for a neighbour or workmate.

Only two members refused, and several who were active in their unions took four or six copies. Thus, we reached up 70 or 80 booklets at once, and were off to a good start.

The attack on the general public began one foggy evening late in November. We were all impressed by the quality of the booklet, and my own feeling was that it was the most powerful political weapon ever placed in the hands of the constituency parties, but I had no idea what response we would find on the doorstep.

The first night, in a good Labour area, two of us sold 22 booklets in 80 calls, an average of 27 per cent, and the night we were doing well. Ever since then, we have kept records of each canvass, so that we could improve our

technique. As a result of the first night's canvass, we agreed on a standard approach.

First, we had found that it was much easier to sell to the man of the house than his wife, so we made a point in future of asking for him. (My belief is that men are more politically conscious: my wife says it is merely that women get used to saying 'No' to callers, and do so out of habit.)

If the woman came to the door, we would send the booklet in for her husband to see. Then we stressed, at the beginning of each call, the price, sixpence. Thirdly, we made sure that while we were talking, we gave each prospective buyer a good look at the inside pages, picking out, if we could, the aspects of policy likely to interest them. These tactical moves helped considerably.

The second night, in the same area, we boosted our sales to 52 per cent of calls, and since then, we have even gone as high as 70 per cent.

Of course, it would be foolish to suggest that these figures could be

copied everywhere. A great deal depends upon the territory, the weather, and so on, but the essential point is that a little thought can usually produce better results.

Doorstep tactics vary from seller to seller, but the basic technique is the same. Look cheerful and confident. Explain clearly why you are calling (I once spent five minutes convincing a woman I was nothing to do with the Labour exchange).

### Keep Talking

Keep talking — while there's Life, there's Hope. If they say they aren't Labour, beg them to be broadminded. If they say they are such staunch Labour supporters that they don't need the booklet (a surprising number try this gambit), ask them to take one and give it to some of their weaker friends.

If they tell you to drop dead, make a note for the Register. If you are finally defeated, retire courteously — "hoping they didn't mind you calling".

Most of my selling has been done in Bristol North-West, and in Salisbury, two very different constituencies, and the general plan has to be adapted to suit the local circumstances.

Bristol North-West is a Labour seat, with large corporation housing estates. Politically, our ward is well tilted, and most of our support is already plotted on the Register. Consequently, we can concentrate on straight selling.

In the Salisbury constituency, there are many villages where we still have no contacts, and we are more methodical in our approach. We use the booklet selling to carry out a canvass, and spend much time looking for possible helpers. The work is slower, but just as rewarding. The booklet gives us a good reason for calling, and it is easy to gauge from the reaction whether the buyer is mildly interested, or keen enough to do some work if invited.

Of course, it is not all jam. Perhaps I might mention the One that Got Away. On one evening canvass in Bristol with some friends, I tripped over a wire fence with my arms full of books, and wrenched my knee pretty painfully.

I limped round a few more houses, giving unusually terse replies, and decided to call it a day after the next house. Just as I rang the bell, a spasm of pain shot through the knee, now swelling nicely, and I clung on to the pillar, head in arms, until it passed.

Unfortunately, at that precise moment the lady of the house, elderly and timorous, twitched aside her curtains to see what this late caller could be — and saw what appeared to be a drunk clinging to the doorway.

That was one book we didn't sell. I didn't even get the door open. I dare say she took refuge in the coal-shed, while I hobbled back to join my friends, who had witnessed the whole incident, and were howling with mirth in the street outside.

W. A. CANNON

### 3—INTO ACTION

## North Lewisham's Big Push

LAST September, North Lewisham commenced a series of membership contact drives, and Sunday after Sunday, right up until just before Christmas, teams of members, together with our M.P., Niall MacDermot, called on hundreds of members, stressing the importance of their undertaking work for the Labour Party. Before each 'drive', every member was sent a personal letter,

appealing to them to volunteer for a definite job.

As a result of this campaign, many hundreds of additional offers of help have been secured, covering every ward listed. The attention of members was drawn to the Postal Vote, and quite a substantial number of applications have been dealt with, and are still coming.

Whilst all this was going on, a person



er from our Member was distributed every elector in North Lewisham. In November it was decided to set up an 'Into Action' Campaign Committee, to organise the sale of *The Future Labour Party*, and to stimulate other activity.

The campaign commenced in January with the sale of this document to members, through the collectors. Inserted in each copy sold to members was a special notice inviting them to attend their constituency ward meetings to discuss the statement, and to ask their questions of Bill MacDermot, who would be in attendance.

## Second Stage

We are now involved in the second stage of the campaign, working on the 'marked register' by canvassing the 'B' and selling the document to the new voters and Labour supporters, who are being invited to join the Party.

Our first mass canvass and sale was last Sunday and over 20 members, including our M.P. and Audrey Laghan, our L.C.C. member, turned up giving this stage of the campaign a wonderful send off. A number of our members working in large undertakings steadily selling the statement to their work-workers, one, in fact, has already sold over 100 copies.

To arouse additional interest in the campaign, a house-to-house distribution of the following party leaflets is being made: "Hi Jim," "Can we have that?" "How are we fixed for money?" "A question of personal choice." In connection our Youth Section are making a very valuable contribution by doing most of the distribution. Posters are being displayed and we are arranging a special display throughout the constituency within the next few weeks.

Bill MacDermot has made himself available to discuss the policy statement of any affiliated organisation wishing to do so, and has already attended a number of T.U. branch meetings, with the intention of following. Further, we have been fortunate in having the first Public demonstration to launch the campaign in London, addressed by the Party Leader, Hugh Gaitskell, M.P.—held at the Lewisham Town Hall.

**KATHLEEN BUTLER**

## Find More Workers

by E. V. REES

I ENJOY doing research and I am sometimes fascinated with the results but, unless the information obtained is effectively used, the exercise is largely a waste of time.

From enquiries I have made and from the numerous meetings my colleagues and I attend, we have found that not more than five to ten per cent of individual members attend ward or local party meetings. As we rely on those attending these meetings to staff the organisation and build it up in readiness for the General Election, our manpower resources are approximately 90 per cent deficient.

We have, therefore, been encouraging our parties to check their lists of individual members, to tick off those who seldom, if ever, attend party meetings and to visit them to ask for their help in the 'Into Action' campaign and with preparations for the election.

The plan is working admirably and we have proved that some members are anxious and willing to give their help. (But you would be amused, and sometimes alarmed, at the reasons some give for not attending ward or local party meetings.)

In the South-East constituency of Bristol, the organisation has been running down for a considerable time and it was decided to send to each member a card indicating the help required. From 200 cards collected back, the following offers of help were obtained:

Cars ... ..	15
Write envelopes ... ..	151
Typists ... ..	7
Clerks ... ..	13
Full-time help on polling day	20
Canvassers ... ..	61
Collectors ... ..	7
Committee rooms polling day	17
Individual donations ...	£29 6s. 0d.

If this method of approach can be made in all our constituencies, we can obtain from the 90 per cent who seldom come to meetings a volume of help to give us an organisation to carry us to victory in all our marginal constituencies and to shake our opponents rigid in seats where they feel safe.

# Invite Hugh Gaitskell to your Ward

HOW would you like Hugh Gaitskell to address your next ward meeting? Perhaps, as an alternative, your members might like to take part in a discussion on Labour's Education Policy, after hearing the expert views of Alice Bacon, Fred Peart, and Michael Stewart. This can be arranged quite easily if you have access to a tape recorder, and your party subscribes to Labour's National Tape Library Service.

Just over twelve months ago, the Labour Party established its own Tape Library Service. Since then this has become increasingly popular and now has well over 60 subscribers, mainly constituency parties, but including a few other associated and affiliated organisations.

During 1957, several experimental tape recordings were produced and sold to local parties. They were very well received and demand was made for a regular supply of tapes at a low cost. The only satisfactory method of providing this service was to establish a tape library, and to invite regular annual subscriptions from affiliated organisations.



Subscribers make a first annual payment of £5 10s., or £6 10s., according to the speed of tape required. In return for this they are issued on loan with newly dubbed tapes at intervals of about eight to ten weeks. Renewal subscriptions are considerably lower for those who have previously returned earlier tapes both undamaged and when required.

To help affiliated organisations which have only very limited opportunities to use taped messages or discussions, an initial half annual subscription will be accepted but in return only half the total tapes issued will be supplied.

A few local parties have expressed

a desire to buy tapes rather than subscribe to the Library Service. As tapes are specially prepared for subscribers this presents a number of difficulties and could involve both local parties and Head Office with unnecessary expense.

Tapes are made available on loan and are usually called in after three months, so that a new recording can be dubbed. This system has the advantage that parties can be sure in the propaganda and educational work that taped messages are topical and do not contain statements which are out of date. The average length of a recording is 25 minutes and tapes can be supplied for machines operating at 3½ i.p.s. 7½ i.p.s.

During its first year, the Library has supplied discussions on the European Free Trade Area, Education, and the Cost of Living, in each of which three well-known Members of Parliament took part. Harold Wilson was specially interviewed on 'Plan for Progress', Geoffrey Goodman of the *Daily Herald*, and Hugh Gaitskell's famous conference speech on economic policy was issued.

The latest recording includes three short speeches by Hugh Gaitskell, James Griffiths and Barbara Castle, 'The Future Labour Offers You'. Each of these speeches, which are designed for use at public meetings, are directed at different types of audiences. For instance, Mr. Griffiths speaks mainly to gatherings at which Trade Unions are likely to predominate, and Mr. Castle addresses herself chiefly to women.

Any affiliated organisation which would like to have more information about the rules or subscriptions to the National Tape Library Service should write to the Broadcasting Officer, Labour Party Headquarters.

KEN PELL



# CALENDAR FOR BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS (ENGLAND & WALES)

Including Metropolitan Boroughs

## POLLING DAY : THURSDAY, 7th MAY, 1959

Compiled by BERT WILLIAMS, National Agent's Department

Notice of Election .. .. .	Not later than	Tuesday, 14th April
Delivery of Nomination Papers and Consent to nomination not later than NOON .. .. .		Tuesday, 21st April
Notice of decisions on Nomination and publication of Statement of persons nominated by NOON .. .. .		Wednesday, 22nd April
Declaration, in writing, to Clerk of Council of Name and Address of Election Agent not later than NOON .. .. .		Thursday, 23rd April
Delivery of Notice of Withdrawal not later than NOON .. .. .		Thursday, 23rd April
Application for Extension of Polling Hours not later than NOON .. .. .		Thursday, 23rd April
Notice of Poll .. .. .		Friday, 1st May
Notice of Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents not later than .. .. .		Monday, 4th May
POLLING DAY .. .. .		Thursday, 7th May
The Count .. .. .		As soon as practicable after Close of Poll
Claims to be sent to Election Agent in respect of Election Expenses by .. .. .		Thursday, 21st May
Payments, by Election Agent, of claims in respect of Election Expenses by .. .. .		Thursday, 4th June
Return and Declaration of Election Agent as to Election Expenses by .. .. .		Thursday, 11th June
Declaration by Candidate .. .. .		Within seven days of actual transmission of Agent's Return and Declaration.

**Note :** Where the Declaration of Poll is made on the following day (after midnight of 7th May) another day can be added for Claims, Payments and Returns.

# Urban, Rural District and

DAY OF ELECTION (Polling Day) ..	Monday, 4th May		Tuesday, 5th May	
	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
Notice of Election. Not later than .. ..	8th April	10th April	9th April	11th April
Delivery of Nomination Papers and Consent not later than NOON .. ..	15th April	17th April	16th April	18th April
Notice of decisions on Nominations and publication of Statement as to persons nominated by NOON .. ..	18th April	18th April	20th April	20th April
Declaration, in writing of Name and Address of Election Agent not later than NOON..	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Delivery of Notices of Withdrawal by NOON	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Application for Extension of Polling Hours not later than NOON .. ..	20th April	20th April	21st April	21st April
Notice of Poll .. ..	28th April	28th April	29th April	29th April
Notice of Appointment of Polling and Counting Agents not later than .. ..	30th April	30th April	1st May	1st May
Day of Election .. ..	4th May	4th May	5th May	5th May
The Count .. ..				
Claims to be sent to Election Agent in respect of Election Expenses by .. ..	*18th May	*18th May	19th May	19th May
Payment, by Election Agent, of claims in respect of Election Expenses by .. ..	Parish 25th May	1st June	Parish 26th May	
	Rural District 1st June		Rural District 2nd June	
Return and Declaration of Election Agent as to Election Expenses by .. ..	Parish 1st June	8th June	Parish 2nd June	
	Rural District 8th June		Rural District 9th June	
Declaration of Candidate as to Election Expenses	The Declaration can be sent within Council Elections where an Election			

\*Whit Monday



# FOR ish Council Elections, 1959

Wednesday 6th May		Thursday, 7th May		Friday, 8th May		Saturday, 9th May	
RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN
	13th April	11th April	14th April	13th April	15th April	14th April	16th April
April	20th April	18th April	21st April	20th April	22nd April	21st April	23rd April
April	21st April	22nd April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	22nd April	23rd April	23rd April	24th April	24th April	25th April	25th April
April	30th April	1st May	1st May	2nd May	2nd May	4th May	4th May
May	2nd May	4th May	4th May	5th May	5th May	6th May	6th May
May	6th May	7th May	7th May	8th May	8th May	9th May	9th May

as may be practicable after Close of the Poll

May	20th May	21st May	21st May	22nd May	22nd May	23rd May	23rd May
h May	3rd June	Parish 28th May	4th June	Parish 29th May	5th June	Parish 30th May	6th June
al ict une		Rural District 4th June		Rural District 5th June		Rural District 6th June	
h une.	10th June	Parish 4th June	11th June	Parish 5th June	12th June	Parish 6th June	13th June
al ict une		Rural District 11th June		Rural District 12th June		Rural District 13th June	

he Election Agent transmitting the Return of Election Expenses (excepting Parish  
quired), but it is wisest to ensure that the Declaration is submitted at the same time.

# CALENDAR FOR BURGH AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(SCOTLAND)

**POLLING DAY : TUESDAY, 5th MAY, 1959**

NOTICE OF ELECTION by the fourth Tuesday preceding the day of Election .. .. .	7th April
DELIVERY OF NOMINATION PAPERS, not later than 4 p.m. on the third Tuesday preceding the day of election ..	14th April
APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION AGENT; APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF POLLING HOURS; NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATE; delivery of such notices to be not later than 4 p.m. on the second Tuesday preceding the day of election .. .. .	21st April
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF POLLING AND COUNTING AGENTS, to be delivered not later than the fourth day before the day of election .. .. .	30th April
NOTICE OF POLL; NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION; not later than the Friday preceding the day of election .. .. .	1st May
POLLING DAY .. .. .	5th May
CLAIMS, to be sent to Election Agent in respect of election expenses, by .. .. .	19th May
PAYMENTS, by Election Agent, in respect of election expenses, by .. .. .	2nd June
RETURN AND DECLARATION BY ELECTION AGENT as to expenses by .. .. .	9th June
DECLARATION OF CANDIDATE within seven days of the actual transmission of Election Agent's Return and Declaration	



# LEGAL POINTS ON RECORDING

WITH the growth in use of tape recorders by constituency parties, the issue of the legality of recording musical, dramatic or literary performances becomes important. This applies to either direct performances by the performer, or from recorded and or radio programmes.

Obligations and rights concerning recordings are covered mainly by the Copyright Act, 1956, which came into force on 1st June, 1957. A recording is defined in the Act as "the aggregate of the sounds emitted in, and capable of being reproduced by means of, a record of any description . . ." And the copyright is effective for 50 years.

Unless permission has been obtained, it is an infringement of copyright to make a record embodying the performance, to cause the record to be made in public, or to broadcast the recording.

The general question of what is a public use of a record cannot be decided in a few words. But there are special provisions in the Act permitting records to be played in hostels and similar establishments, providing there is no charge for admission. Also, a profit-making society is permitted to play records and charge for admission, providing the proceeds are applied only for the purpose of the society.

## Further Information

For further information on this, and other points relating to copyright, can be obtained from Mr. H. Walter, General Manager, Performing Rights Society Ltd., 33 Margaret Street, London, W.1, telephone number NGHAM 3864.

Recording from the radio is covered by a section of the Act which creates a copyright in broadcasting and lays down that it is an infringement to record a broadcast "otherwise than for

**Jack Hill draws attention to the legal requirements of the Copyright Act when recording direct and broadcast performances. Parties using tape recorders in their propaganda should make a note of his sound advice.**

private purposes". Making such a record for sale, hire, broadcasting or public performance would be "otherwise than for private purposes".

Playing a recording of a broadcast in one's own home to an intimate circle of friends would certainly be regarded as a private purpose and therefore permissible. Even for private purposes, however, the Act does not imply any right to copy a recording without the consent of the maker.

An official BBC statement on the subject reads:

*It is an infringement of BBC rights to do any of the following things without first obtaining permission from the BBC:*

1. *A record may not be made of a sound broadcast or of the sound part of a television broadcast otherwise than for private purposes;*
2. *A film may not be made of any sequence of images in a television broadcast sufficient to be seen as a moving picture, otherwise than for private purposes;*
3. *A television broadcast may not be shown in public to a paying audience.*

*In addition to the permission of the BBC for the above purposes, permission must be obtained from the owners of any copyright material used in a broadcasting for the recording, filming, or public performance of their material, and the consent of any dramatic or musical performers taking part in a broadcast must be*

obtained for the recording or filming of their performances, otherwise than for private and domestic use.

Another section of the Act indicates it is not an infringement of copyright in a literary, dramatic or musical work to make or play a record for teaching or other school activities, so long as the only people present are teachers, pupils or others directly connected with the activities of the school.

It must also be remembered that copyright in a record is additional to, and independent of, any copyright that may exist in the words, music or other programme material. And unless the particular circumstances are covered by an exemption, it is necessary to obtain permission to make a record, or play a recording, from all the interested parties.

### Written Consent

Section 45 and Schedule Six of the Copyright Act, 1956, extends the Dramatic and Musical Performers' Protection Act, 1925. It makes it an offence, punishable by a fine, "knowingly" to make any record of any dramatic or musical performance without the written consent of the performers or to publicly perform such a record, or to sell, hire, or distribute it for the purposes of trade.

It is a defence if the record was made for "private and domestic use only", and it is a defence if the recording was made only for the purpose of recording current events, or if the performance was only a background or merely an incidental in some other way to the principal content of the recording.

The maker of the recording is also entitled to the defence that written consent was given by someone claiming the authority to give it and that there was no reasonable grounds for doubting the claim.

Until the domestic tape recorder became commonplace, the legality or otherwise of making recordings was largely an academic question. The number of folk capable of cutting a good disc was never significant.

But now, with the modern tape machine, almost anyone can produce first-class results. The small amount of skill needed to get a clear, clean signal on tape is easily acquired.

And the gear needed is neither unduly costly nor highly complex. But if a suggestion of public performance for profit arises, then both copyright holder and performer have the protection of the law—as is only reasonable.

## MOBILE RADIO AT ELECTIONS

IN last November's *Labour Organisation* we read with awe and wonder Frank Shepherd's description of the Thing—electronic device which Cliff and Moss Rhodes operate on polling days at Warrlingham.

We were interested to note that (apart from the evident usefulness of the apparatus) only the two operators were allowed in the committee room, and wondered whether this was in the interests of efficiency or of safety! More seriously, however, it did occur to us that "boffins" everywhere should be reminded that the *Labour Organisation* welcomes news and details of ideas designed to improve electioneering technique.

A recent communication from the Radio Services Department of the General Post Office reminded us of this. It was particularly concerned with the use of private mobile radio systems, e.g., candidates keeping in touch with their central committee rooms, or controlling transport on polling day.

It appears that such equipment, either loaned by manufacturers or built by radio enthusiasts, has been used for the purposes in recent elections. The G.P.O. does not object to such usage, provided they are not required to establish point-to-point communications for which the public network should be used.

Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1949, the use of any radio apparatus is prohibited except under the authority of a licence issued by the Postmaster General. Application for licences should be made to:

The Director,  
Radio Services Department  
(Radio Branch)  
Headquarters Building,  
General Post Office,  
St. Martin's-le-Grand,  
London, E.C.1.



# Clean Up Registration Procedure

POSTAL voting was something which was started with good intentions, but experience has gone to show it has by no means worked out as well as many had hoped. I am not complaining because it was introduced by a Labour Government and was used effectively by our predecessors. For this we have only ourselves to blame.

But all the same, postal voting needs to be reviewed. Why? How? Let us first look at the failings.

Take first, the information given on an F.7. Very often the doctor does not state clearly whether the person is a 'temporary' or a 'permanent'. Consequently the Electoral Registration Officer takes it a 'permanent' to be on the safe side. What happens? Many things! A man becomes a permanent postal voter when he is permanently incapacitated or

when there is the person who is admitted to hospital and arranges for the postal vote to be addressed to him there.

When he is discharged from hospital and the ballot paper does not reach him. Not knowing this, he goes to record his vote at the polling station and is refused as a postal vote ballot paper already has been used.

## STRUCK OFF

Take now the person who is registered because he is sick or infirm and who moves to another address. He is registered as an elector by virtue of his residence on the 10th October, but he does not realise he should register again as a postal voter. Consequently, he is struck off the absent voters' list.

Finally, there is the elector who has a postal vote because his occupation makes it likely that he will not be able to vote in person. Often, such a person changes his job, but continues to be registered as a postal voter.

As time goes on, these anomalies will become greater. Should not postal voters be asked to apply annually in the same way as ordinary electors?

Now look at the Service voter. Are we satisfied that his registration through the Services is really the best way of doing the job? Agents know only too well that

a man often appears on the register both as a civilian and as a Service voter.

A Service voter is always registered at the address where he lived when he first completed his F/Vote/35. Unlike his civilian brother, he is not re-registered annually, but he remains registered at his original address, no matter how many times his home may change. Of course, he could go to his Unit Office and re-register, when his home address changes, but this is most unlikely. (Any ex-soldier will know it is a wise move to keep clear of any Unit Office!)

## INTERESTING RESULTS

Civilian changes and Services permanencies on the register produce some very interesting results: Sometimes, Service personnel appear registered for addresses which no longer exist; often a man is shown as living with a family he does not even know; and even has been known to show a Service man with the same address as a maiden lady!

Finally, the Electoral Registration Officer cannot take a Service voter off the register until he receives a clearance from the C.R.O. These are hopelessly far behind and people still appear on the register long after they have left the Forces.

A recent case was of two men who were Service voters in one ward and civilian voters in another! Both had been out of the Forces for six years! A check in a polling district of 2,028 electors showed no less than 34 completely out of date Service registrations. This figure, in proportion to a 57,000 electorate, could mean over 1,550 inaccuracies.

Would it not be better, therefore, if Service men were registered on the family household form instead of through the Services? If not, the Services should clear up the mess which exists at present.

The MS is a special class. He is away from home most of the time and hard to contact. He may be shown as MS on the register. This should not be a *may* but a *must*, as it is necessary to contact the merchant seaman to ensure he appoints a proxy voter.

A Service voter home on leave can cast his own vote even if he has appointed a

proxy, but this right is denied to the MS voter. Surely this should be altered?

Now to the register and the B and C Lists. Is it good enough to ask people to check that their names are on the new register by looking at Lists A, B and C? How many people really understand the procedure, especially when they are taken off C and put back on B to clear up wrong initials or to correct a printer's error? Often I have found that people have been to the Post Office to check their registration and been given only the old register.

Instead of the old register and Lists B and C, why not let us have a draft register to check? I know that Lists B and C are useful to an agent, but a draft register is better for the public, and the public should count.

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## News Sheet for Bristol West

EVERY Constituency Labour Party now faces the task of publicising Labour Party policy, building up membership and strengthening electoral organisation. Strong, active constituencies will have little difficulty in this, but constituencies with limited resources and few active workers may be interested in a scheme now working in Bristol West.

Bristol West is one of the safest Tory seats in the country, with a majority of 22,001 in the 1955 General Election. The constituency party has only a small membership and little money, and a door-to-door canvass on a large scale is very difficult between elections.

It was decided that the best way to use the limited resources was by circulating a news sheet. Duplicating was considered first, but it was found that the whole cost of printing was only a little more than the cost of buying duplicating paper. Seven thousand leaflets were ordered for £6 10s., and one was delivered to each house in selected areas.

The leaflet is 5 in. x 8 in., and the first issue, after a short introduction, contains almost verbatim the sections from *The Future Labour Offers You* on 'Growing old without fear', and 'Value for money'.

These topics were thought to be suitable for the month after Christmas. An insert contains the name and address of a constituency secretary and offers copies of *The Future Labour Offers You*, post free. The party will gladly stand the postage if people are interested enough to enquire. The news sheet comes with an advertisement for a local war party whist drive.

Future issues will be every two months and will cover other aspects of policy and after the election, more local news will be included. Most of the cost is being borne by individual members, who are very willing to give for a piece of active propaganda work.

Areas for distribution are chosen on the basis of known Labour strength and ease of delivery. Many people who do not normally attend meetings have agreed to deliver, and active members will be used to fill in gaps and to act as an emergency squad if anybody should drop out. Contributors are given a postcard addressed to the constituency secretary, to use in case of emergency.

RUTH ELLEN

## Situations Vacant

COLNE VALLEY C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. The appointment to be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the National Agent, The Labour Party, Transport House, 50, Whitehall, London, S.W.1, to whom they should be returned not later than 25th March, 1959.

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# LABOUR PREPARES FOR 1918 G.E.

by S. E. Barker

NE of the changes made in the Party constitution at the Annual Conference held at Nottingham in January, 1918, was that in future Conferences should be held each year in the month of June. Therefore, a second Conference was held in June, 1918, at the Central Hall, Westminster, over which Mr. W. T. Purdy presided. This Conference debated fully the report on 'Labour and the New Social Order'. It was amended considerably, and its final proposals went far beyond any previous policy decisions in challenging the old economic system.

The Conference decided that every constituency party should be asked to report to Head Office, within four weeks of the Conference, on how many candidates it proposed to order for circulation among its organisations and members. There was no doubt about it that no grass was to be allowed to grow under anyone's feet.

This challenging programme was necessary for the pending General Election, but it was recognised that election machinery must also be equal to the task ahead. The Executive Committee report opened with paragraphs on 'Party Organisation' and 'Election Campaign'.

By moving these paragraphs in a speech brimful of confidence, Arthur Henderson pointed out that since the constitution of the Party was changed in the year, everything possible had been done to set the new local party machinery into action to be ready for the forthcoming fight. He said in the Conference that the position in regard to both organisation and candidates was very encouraging.

Already 301 candidates had been elected, or were in the process of election. This figure included four candidates who were to fight four of the University seats. Mr. Henderson said that the Party had no apology to

make for attacking electoral positions not previously fought by the Labour Party. In addition to the constituencies which had already taken steps to select candidates, application to do so had been received from another 100 constituencies.

Wherever there was a prospect of a Labour candidate securing sufficient votes to save the deposit of £150, constituencies would be encouraged to fight. The electorate on the new register would in all probability be more than doubled, and as many constituencies as possible must give the electors a chance to vote for Labour candidates, and thus challenge the old political parties.

## Union Candidates

During the course of his speech, Mr. Henderson chided the unions a little in respect to the number of candidates they themselves were supporting. He contended that while some of the larger unions had done extremely well in providing and financing candidates, others had failed to do so. He urged those unions which had not yet placed candidates in the field to consider the matter immediately following Conference.

Arthur Henderson reminded Conference of the decision taken in the previous January to increase the affiliation fee from 1d. per member to 2d. per member. He said that this would increase the Party's income from approximately £10,000 to £20,000 per year. Nevertheless, he was compelled to impress upon the delegates the fact that the National Executive Committee already was under an obligation to help finance candidates and had committed itself to £15,000.

The Party must also spend more money on organisation and propaganda if it was to make an impressive advance at the General Election. More money was needed, and the National



Executive Committee had decided to make an appeal for voluntary donations to Party organisations, members and the general public.

The only opposition to the proposals of the National Executive Committee came from James Sexton, of the Dock Labourers' Union. He objected to such people as Lord Haldane, the Outhwaites, the Ponsonbys, and the Morels, coming into the Party. He also objected to the Party "going around with the hat", as he considered it undignified. However, no one else shared his views, he could not even get a seconder to his motion to refer back the paragraphs in the report referring to these matters.

### Women's Votes

Another development in organisation had taken place during the year. The enfranchisement of women meant that thousands would vote for the first time in their lives. It was apparent that great efforts must be made to enrol as many women into the Party as possible, and to influence the women electors to vote Labour.

The Women's Labour League ceased to function when the new Constitution of the Labour Party was adopted in 1918. Its leaders gave great assistance in forming Women's Sections. *The Labour Woman*, which was first published by the League, was taken over by the Party and its sales increased considerably.

Dr. Marion Phillips was appointed Woman Officer, and two National Women Organisers were appointed to assist her, i.e. Mrs. Jessie Clarke and Mrs. Chettle. Later in the year Mrs. Clarke had to resign owing to ill-health and Mrs. Lilian Anderson Fenn was appointed to take her place. In the autumn, Miss Isabel Basnett and Miss Mamie Thompson (who became Mrs. Frank Anderson) were appointed to the staff. Later, Miss Isabel Basnett resigned to become agent in Wandsworth.

A conference of agents and candidates was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on 19th and 20th March. The subjects discussed were: 'The Technicalities of the Representation of the People Act', 'The Operation of the New Party Constitution in the Constituency', 'The Place of the Individual Member in Labour Party Organisation', 'Electoral Methods of Procedure having regard to the General Election'.

The lecturers were Mr. H. H. Sless (Standing Counsel to the Party), Mr. Sidney Webb, Mr. Egerton P. Wake, and Mr. Arthur Peters (National Agent).

Following the decision of the Swansea Co-operative Congress to enter the field in politics, efforts were made to organise Co-operative societies politically. In order to avoid friction, a joint committee was set up including representatives of the Parliamentary Committee of the Co-operative Congress, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress and the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party.

Consideration was given by this committee to the possibility of selecting dozen constituencies where Co-operative candidates might be adopted with the support of our own Party organisation. If such an arrangement were possible, it was thought the support of the Co-operative movement would be obtained in constituencies where Labour candidates were running.

The Liverpool Co-operative Congress decided that their nominees for Parliamentary candidature should be known as 'Co-operative Candidates' only.

A number of organisations had applied for affiliation which could not be classified as Trade Unions nor Social Societies. Organisations had been asked to instruct their delegates on a proposal that the National Executive Committee should be given discretionary powers to accept the affiliation of professional and other organisations on their respective merits.

### Herbert Morrison

Herbert Morrison doubted the wisdom of this recommendation on the ground that persons wishing to become members of the Labour Party could do so either through individual membership through one of the bodies already affiliated to the Labour Party.

While he was in favour of a number of professional organisations, such as certain teachers' associations, he considered that the Party should be careful in admitting professional associations whose members really ought to be in trade unions, and not in associations of middle-class, professional people.

He suggested that the National Executive Committee would do well to take this paragraph back and reconsider its position. He was supported by Mr.

omley, of the Associated Society of  
omotive Engineers and Firemen.  
However, the proposal was supported by  
Secretary of the Party on the grounds  
that the Executive Committee was merely  
acting for discretionary power, and the  
motion to refer back the paragraph was  
lost.

What was described as a sensational  
attempt to destroy the Labour Movement  
is referred to in a paragraph of the  
report headed 'Trade Union/Labour  
Party'.

In April, 1918, a Mr. J. B. Williams, of  
the Amalgamated Musicians Union, sent  
a number of circulars which proposed  
the formation of a purely Trade Union  
Party, run under the auspices of the  
Trades Union Congress. One of the  
circulars was signed by 20 trade union  
leaders and members and in two instances  
members of the Parliamentary Committee  
of the Trades Union Congress.

### **Determine Endorsement**

The matter came before the Joint  
Committee of the Trades Union Congress  
and the National Executive Committee in  
April, 1918, and the following resolution  
was adopted by 13 votes to 4, and Con-  
ference was asked to endorse this resolu-  
tion, and did so in a most determined  
manner:

*That this Joint Meeting of the Parlia-  
mentary Committee and Labour Party  
Executive, having considered the  
circular issued by Mr. J. B. Williams  
and signed by certain Trade Union  
Officials, wherein an appeal is made  
for the formation of a Trade Union  
Labour Party, which in our opinion,  
is calculated to disrupt a Movement  
built up by years of sacrifice, calls  
upon those responsible to immedi-  
ately discontinue such action, and  
trust no further steps will be neces-  
sary to enforce what loyalty to our  
Movement has a right to expect from  
those holding such responsible  
positions.*

The report drew attention to the fact  
that a motion was being circulated for  
the agenda of the forthcoming Trades  
Union Congress, in which the Congress  
was being invited to establish, and the  
Parliamentary Committee of Congress  
instructed to organise, a new and separate  
political party, to be constituted  
exclusively of Trade Unions.

The National Executive Committee  
expressed regret that anything of this

nature should be done on the eve of a  
General Election to divide the forces of  
Labour, and it asked all Trade Unions  
and the Trades Union Congress to give  
all assistance possible in preparation for  
the General Election.

Another matter of political importance  
was before Conference. Feeling had been  
growing for some time that the political  
truce should be brought to an end.  
Arthur Henderson moved the following  
resolution on behalf of the National  
Executive Committee:

*That this Conference of the Labour  
Party accepts the recommendation  
of the Party Executive that the  
existence of the political truce should  
be no longer recognised.*

There was a long debate and consider-  
able opposition to the proposal, but the  
resolution was finally carried by 1,704,000  
to 951,000 votes.

The work of the Party was increasing  
at such a rapid pace that consideration  
had to be given to securing new Party  
offices. Thought had been given to the  
possibility of erecting a permanent build-  
ing to house the Labour Party and the  
Trades Union Congress, but no final  
decision had been made. However, larger  
offices were required and Conference was  
advised that arrangements were being  
made to take over premises at Ecclestone  
Square.

*(continued from page 43)*

demonstrations and the national poster  
campaign were timed accordingly, but  
if the final battle is postponed, the  
campaign will go on.

The sales of the policy statement  
have been exceedingly good, but there  
are still hundreds of thousands of elec-  
tors who have not been given an  
opportunity of buying a copy and  
learning about Labour's remedy for  
Britain's ills. Other publications will  
be issued: the hard hitting Steel leaflet  
is only one of them. There will be  
others not only attacking the Govern-  
ment's record, but also presenting our  
policy in a more popular manner and  
describing special parts of it in greater  
detail.

If each stage of the campaign is  
fought with increased vigour, the  
longer the election is delayed the  
greater the chances of Labour victory.



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